



**រាជបណ្ឌិតសភាកម្ពុជា**

**Royal Academy of Cambodia**



# **លទ្ធិប្រជាធិបតេយ្យក្នុងអក្សរសិល្ប៍ខ្មែរ**

## **Democracy in Khmer Literature**

**សរសេរដោយ**

**ឡាក់បរិស្ថានប័ត្រជាន់ខ្ពស់**

**ទិសវិគ : ចុង វណ្ណៈ**

**សាស្ត្រាចារ្យជំនាញ : បណ្ឌិត ឆ សៅ**

**ឡាក់បរិស្ថានប័ត្រជាន់ខ្ពស់ជំនាន់ទី ១**

**ឆ្នាំ ២០០២**

## Summary

# Democracy in Khmer literature

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### **Introduction:**

The Cambodia is a county, which was used to have a famous culture and civilization in the period of Angkor. Meanwhile, the Cambodia was used to meet many obstacles that pulled this country to the dark groove.

The research paper which you whole in hand now is a new step of researching on Democracy in Khmer literature. It will tell you about a lot of combinations of some Khmer writer views in each period of Khmer literature. Here I do not mean that I detail the democratic theories, in fact, it's just chosen principles of democratic segments for being a light in inflecting the democratic views in Khmer literature.

I think that democracy is a special way for Cambodia nowadays which only stood from civil war for many centuries in the past therefore I decide to research this topic in the purpose of developing the democracy in Cambodia basically. And there is only democracy in which can make peace, real human rights, stability, and development prosperously so on, I think.

As you known the aims of research is to upgrade democracy in Cambodia through Khmer literature because I think that literature can make people easily to understand democracy because many Cambodian people still remember many Khmer folklores and novels yet like Thon Chey, Chao Kambet Bantos, Mea Yoeung, Tum Teav, Sophat, Phka Sropon (Wield Flower), Kolab Pailin (Phalin Rose) so on.

In this topic is divided into three chapters. The first one will say about democracy and its evolutions. I just demonstrate some general democratic theories not detail. The second one says about democracy in Khmer literature and the third one says about the role of Khmer literature in building democracy in current Cambodia.

### **Chapter I: Democracy and its evolutions**

In this chapter I would like to introduce the definitions of democracy for being easy to inflect its theory into Khmer literature. There are a lot of kinds of views of democracy that many scholars have defined. All theories are quoted from different documents like American Democracy, Key concepts in Critical Theory, Oxford Dictionary, and others, after that I offer a combined definition of democracy.

On the other hand, I will tell you, not detail about the Source of Democracy, Democracy in Cambodia, and Greece, The first leaders of Democracy and laws, and The relationship between Democracy, Human Rights, and Democracy. Some of them are quoted from well-known books and the others are my own idea mainly the democracy in Cambodia.

## **Chapter II: Democracy in Khmer literature**

First of all, I explain the general theories of Khmer literature especially the definitions of literature but not all. It's just some views of literatures' scholars then I show the dividing of Khmer literature. With these are quoted from many books essentially Dr. King Hoc Dy, Dr. Sum Chhum Bun. And some are my own idea. And one more point refers to the inflection of democracy in Khmer literature. Most of Khmer stories and novels are chosen to certificate that there are many segments of democracy basically through the meaning of the stories and novels. For example, I want to say about fair justice of court, through the holy man help tiger showed that the holy man saw a tiger died by cobra at that time he pities it so much and he decided to prolong the life of tiger by using magic. The tiger was survived, after that the tiger wanted to eat him it's very ungrateful. The holy man did not agree. They all went to the court together. The court judged holy man to get win because they got the tiger did the same thing that holy man did. This judgment was called a fair court. Another story is like the Millionaire and Poor People. This story refers to the legal equality. Both had conflicts each other strongly. In front of court they had quality because the court got them to show each problem not poor man or reach man. At last the court got poor man to win because the poor man had reasonable proof and millionaire was used to violate him. Furthermore in the rights of going aboard and coming back own country through the story of Chao Kambet Bantos showed that Kambet Bantos's brother went to make money in China and became a famous man then he returned to Cambodia without obstacles. Beside this he was also appointed as prime minister. Anyway Kambet Bantos himself went to China and came back Cambodia too. If we look at Khmer novels, Wield Flower, Vitheavy failed to be sick until she died when her mother broke her promising Bunthoeuns' parents and forced her to marry reach man, Nei Sort. This problem can be a paradigm that Cambodian's parents should reform their bad habits and gave some rights in choosing couple to children in democratic society. And all Cambodian youths have to think again and again before deciding to do this because choosing couple is big matter if we've chosen wrong we will get painful in full life forever. PhaiLin Rose refers to rights without discriminations. Chit was a worker for Rathana Sambath and Khun Neary was a Rathana Sambath's daughter. A writer got two very different status people to marry, mean that Chit did not discriminate from Khun Neary's father and her father also understood the right of choosing couple so he did not deny love between Chit and his beautiful daughter. And Chit himself did not also discriminate from Khun Neary.

All some examples above are just an introduction; in fact there are a lot of stories and novels which showed segments of democracy like majoritarian leading, free and fair election, rights in living, rights in liberty, rights in religion, rights in speech, rights in setting up association and meeting, rights in choosing job, rights in having own property, and rights in educations.

## **Chapter III: The role of Khmer Literature Build Democracy in Current Cambodia**

This chapter is demonstrated about the contribution of literature in constructing democracy in Cambodia. With these regards, I can find three main hypotheses of literature in building democracy.

**The first one** is: Through the function of literature, in which there are three branches of literature functions: the function of education, the function of knowledge, and the function of ability drill. In each branch there are sub-points; for example in the function of education there are two points, moral education and education of beauty. And in the function of ability drill there are four kinds of drilling, get men to write well in national language, analyze and considering, produce new idea, and good living in society. All these points are really sharing with promoting democracy in Cambodia.

**The second** is: Through the creations of the writer, here there are four main points in it. These points are a title choosing, cores of story, particular questions in the story, and the solution and writer's ideal in the story. All of these aim at the writers if they want to write stories in the purpose of developing democracy. Do not mean that writers have to adapt or follow these steps what's good we get and what's bad we throw.

**The third** is: Through the literature teaching, all teachers should catch the special definitions in the story to teach students. Anyway teaching literature teachers also have to take the experiences of real people living in society to show student and compare with the meaning of the story. Furthermore, teachers do not teach only literature; teachers have to demonstrate other subjects that relevant to the story like history, geography, psychology, and sociology so on. If teachers do like the students will be interested in teacher's teaching and called an attractive teacher. Beside three hypotheses I have pattern teaching by preparing the methods and steps of teaching too. Procedures from one to one are students and teacher actions and teaching must be around democratic theories like liberty, fair, free and fair election, and human rights so on.

### **Conclusions:**

At last, I can draw a conclusion that according to my demonstrations I found that Khmer had had imposing exterior of democracy for long ago but mostly it has hid in Khmer literature. The manner of democracy is an essential source and each segment gets familiar with Cambodia people feeling that it can be the property for us to develop democracy in Cambodia quickly now a day. As we know if we do not choose Khmer democracy in Khmer literature we will see nothing and assess that we don't have manner of democracy. And all the theories of democracy Cambodians take from outside countries. We are Cambodians we have keep Khmer literature well and research views of Khmer writers that hide in literature in the purpose of prosperous Cambodia.



## អក្សរកាត់

ល.រ	អក្សរកាត់	សេចក្តីសម្រាយ	ន័យសេចក្តីជាខ្មែរ
១	-ដ-	ដដែល	ឯកសារយោងដូចគ្នា និងក្រោមគ្នា បន្ទាប់ ។
២	ដ. ឯ. ម.	ដូចឯកសារមុន	ឯកសារយោងដូចគ្នា តែមានឯកសារ ដទៃ នៅឆ្នាំកណ្តាល ។
៣	ទំ.	ទំព័រ	ទំព័រនៃការប្រើប្រាស់ឯកសារយោង ។
៤	ibid.	Ibidem	ឯកសារយោងដូចគ្នា និងក្រោមគ្នា បន្ទាប់ ។
៥	op.cit.	opere citato	ឯកសារយោងដូចគ្នា តែមានឯកសារ ដទៃ នៅឆ្នាំកណ្តាល ។
៦	NGOs	Non Government Organizations	អង្គការក្រៅរដ្ឋាភិបាល
៧	UN	United Nations	អង្គការសហប្រជាជាតិ
៨	WTO	World Trade Organization	អង្គការពាណិជ្ជកម្មពិភពលោក
៩	ASEAN	Association of South East Nations	សមាគមប្រជាជាតិអាស៊ីអាគ្នេយ៍

## មាតិការបៀវត្ស

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